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The Daily Gamecock, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008

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The Daily Gamecock

dailygamecock.com

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008

VOL. 101, NO. 98 ● SINCE 1908

Brown appeals election decision

SG presidential candidate fights against fraud finding

Brad Maxwell
NEWS EDITOR

Alesha Brown appealed her election fraud conviction before the Constitutional Council Wednesday after nearly 30 minutes of trial statements.

The four-person council said deliberations could stretch late into the night.

"We haven't come to a decision but we plan on having our opinion written by tonight and available at 8 a.m.," said Ben Ortiz-Colon, a council justice and first-year political science student.

Brown, a third-year political science student, was charged with election fraud Monday for raffling off a \$50 Blackberry cell phone using "Vote Brown for President" raffle tickets.

The code the Elections Commission said Brown violated prohibits "procuring, by the payment, delivery or promise of money, or other article of value, another to vote for or against any particular candidate or measure at any election."

Justin Williams, a first-year law student, who made the case that a promise was not exchanged between Brown's campaign and students, represented Brown. Williams is Brown's cousin.

"Alesha would have gave up the cell phone, the student would give up the vote. That is not what happened here," Williams said.

He said the exchange was an "offer for a phone" not a "promise for a vote."

Chief Justice Cassidy Evans, a third-year international studies student, asked more questions to Williams concerning the value of the cell phone.

"That's why this case is before us," Evans said.

When Williams argued that many other candidates gave out candy and bottles of water, Evans said, "a cell phone is way more than a piece of candy."

Brown said after the trial that other candidates were raffling too. Former vice presidential candidate Chris McNamee, a third-year political science student, had students guess how many jellybeans were in a jar. The winner received a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card.

"I don't understand the difference between me having a raffle and Alesha having a raffle," McNamee said after the trial. "Everyone gives something out in hopes of people voting."

Brown also said after the meeting that she felt there were conflicts of interest both on the Elections Commission and in her prosecution.

BROWN ● 3



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Dancers, like these shown at the 2007 Dance Marathon, will dance for a full day to raise money for charity.

Dancing for a miracle

USC alumni, students dance 24 hours to raise money for children's hospital

Sean Gruber
STAFF WRITER

Natalie Kenner, a Columbia resident and USC alum, sits on a red couch in Gambrell Hall, shuffling through a plastic bag. The bag is full of her child's first clothes.

Kenner pulls out a folded piece of cloth decorated with pink elephants and green giraffes. When it's folded, it fits neatly into the palm of Kenner's hand. Unfolded, it's the size of her hand.

"This was McKayla's first diaper," Kenner said. "It was too big for her. You could pull her right out of it when she had it on."

Kenner goes back to the bag and pulls out a sock. It's dwarfed by Kenner's thumb.

"This was McKayla's first sock," Kenner said. "They looked like boots when we put them on her."

Today, McKayla is a healthy 6-year-old, living like any other child. But when she was born in 2002, doctors did not expect her to live. She was born 5 and a half months early.

Friday, Kenner speaks at the annual Dance Marathon at USC to help raise money for the Palmetto Health Children's Hospital, where her baby was delivered. This will be her third year speaking.

"Money raised from the Dance Marathon went to update the equipment and training for the Labor and NICU units that I was treated by," Kenner said. "I didn't know that the money I raised as an undergrad at USC would ever benefit me as an adult. I feel like the hospital has done so much for us. I have to pay them back."

The USC Dance Marathon is a 24-hour dancing event that raises money for the Palmetto Children's Hospital and the Miracle Children Network. The donated money is used to buy new equipment for children's hospitals and health charities. The dance marathon will also be donating money to help construct a new free-standing children's hospital in Columbia. This year's marathon will begin Friday at 7 p.m. and continue through Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center.

Ryan Wade, director of USC Dance Marathon and a fourth-year experimental psychology student, said the program, now going into its 10th year, has become a family to him. He said the program not only affects people like McKayla, but students working behind the scenes as well.

"Dance Marathon has always been something close to the hearts of those it affects the most — the families, but never do we truly realize the impact it can have on those that it does not directly benefit until we put a year of our blood, sweat and tears into it," Wade said.

He also said the event has increased both in popularity and support over the years, and this year is looking great



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Dance Marathon helps children like McKayla Kenner.

too.

"We've finally gotten where we want to be, and the only place to go is up. We're hoping for exponential increases in the next few years, and to solidify ourselves as a major donor to Palmetto Health," Wade said. "It's a little to give for those who give so much more, to those who need it most."

Kenner said she hopes the Dance Marathon can reach it's goal of raising \$125,000.

"You never know how much of a difference it will make in someone's life, you might even benefit from it yourself," Kenner said. "We do it for a great cause. Every time you take a step in the marathon, that's another dollar for helping a child."

Kenner can still remember the day of McKayla's birth.

"She looked like a Barbie doll, so thin and with long arms and legs," Kenner said. "My first thought when I saw her was 'I had meat in the freezer that weighs more than she does.' She was only 14 inches long. She could fit in her father's shoe."

McKayla came home on Valentine's Day in 2003. Despite the doctor's predictions, she survived her ordeal and developed none of the physical or mental disabilities associated with premature birth.

"They said she would develop cerebral palsy, have brain damage, become blind and be confined to a wheel chair," Kenner said. "And now she sings, plays the piano and models. She's one of the brightest and most vibrant personalities I've ever met."

Comments on this story? E-mail sagecknew@mailbox.sc.edu

Senate honors Payne

Commendation of former Student Body President passed on Wednesday

Kara Apel
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A resolution commending former Student Body President Nick Payne was passed during a Student Senate meeting Wednesday.

Sens. Lee Cole, Jonathan Antonio, Brent Dubay, Robert Sinners and DeShawn Mitchell introduced the resolution, which was written by Sen. Cole.

Cole, a third-year political science student, thought it was appropriate to honor Payne for his service to the university.

"I thought it would only be proper to honor him for his achievements," he said.

SENATE ● 2



J-School looks for director

Search committee looks for new leader for department

Cassidy Brewer
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The School of Journalism and Mass Communications has received nearly 15 applications for director, following Director Shirley Staples Carter's resignation announcement in October.

John McDermott, co-chair of the director search committee, said the committee will narrow the search to the final three candidates by mid-March and bring them to campus for interviews. They expect to make a final decision by July 1, in time for the fall semester.

McDermott said he hopes the candidates will have an opportunity to meet with students.

"This is the best time for students to make concerns heard," he said.

DIRECTOR ● 4

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

This week

11 a.m.
The Human Race Machine
Russell House second floor lobby

Today

8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.
University Bookstore sidewalk sale
Greene Street

9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Black History Month Blood Drive
Greene Street

6 p.m.
Carolina Judicial Council informational
RH room 305

6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Empower General Body Meetings
RH room 304

8 p.m.
Raquel Cepeda, director of BLING!
RH Ballroom

8:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Carolina Surf Club Meeting
Humanities room 201

Friday, Feb. 22

2 p.m.
Lecture by Janet E. Helms, renown racial identity
theorist, educator and researcher
Gambrell Hall room 153

7 p.m.
Dance Marathon
Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center

Monday, Feb. 25

Student Government runoffs
Vote on VIP

PIC OF THE DAY



KD Safran / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Courtney Geanetta and Emily Lambert enjoyed the day by playing soccer in the Greek Village.

[WEATHER]

TODAY



58 44

Friday



61 53

Crime Report

MONDAY, FEB. 18
Burglary, petit larceny, 8:10 a.m.
School of Nursing, 1612 College St.
The victim had her debit card, cell phone and money stolen from her purse.
Estimated value: \$110
Reporting officer: W.D. Jones

Strong-armed robbery, 10 a.m.
Bates House parking lot, 1423 Whaley St.
The victim said someone forcibly took her possessions.
Estimated value: \$15
Reporting officer: M. Winnington

Burglary, petit larceny, 5:30

p.m.
BA building, 1705 College St.
The victim said his Hewlett-Packard laptop and Samsung flip phone were stolen from a room.
Estimated value: \$800
Reporting officer: W.D. Jones

TUESDAY, FEB. 19
Burglary, petit larceny, noon
300 Main St.
Someone pried the locking mechanism on two drink machines, causing damage, and stole money and merchandise from both merchandise.
Estimated value: \$874
Estimated damage: \$200
Reporting officer: W.D. Jones

Malicious injury to personal property, 12:43 p.m.
Bull Street Garage, 611 Bull St.
Someone damaged the sunroof of the victim's car.
Estimated damage: \$600
Reporting officer: C. Taylor

Crime Alert

Date of Incident: Between Feb. 15 and Feb. 18

Malicious injury to personal property (Vehicle Tires)

Locations:
1321 Whaley St., 902 Barnwell St., 1500 Whaley St., 1322 Heyward St.

Incident:
Although no suspects were seen by the victims, all members of the USC community are strongly encouraged to notify the USC Police Dept immediately by dialing 911 or utilizing the closest emergency call box if suspicious individuals are observed anywhere on campus, especially in parking lots and garages or around vehicles.

SENATE ● Continued from 1

A nearly half-empty Senate passed the resolution, with only 19 of 35 senators in attendance. Though the resolution regarding Payne's service to the student body passed, it was almost tabled. Sen. David Ensor, a third-year political science and math student, was in favor of tabling the resolution and amending it at a later date to include the other members of the executive branch. "It isn't standard to single out one executive officer," Ensor said. Ensor wanted the resolution to be tabled and

amended at a later date to recognize former SG Vice President Jay Laura, former President Pro Tempore Meredith Ross and Treasurer Alesha Brown. "Amend it to include everyone," Ensor said. Sen. Sinners, a second-year political science student, spoke on the resolution's behalf during the meeting. "He [Nick Payne] did a lot," Sinners said. "We need to remember he was a servant to the university." Sinners thought Payne was a good president and

SENATE ● 3

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UNIVERSITY STUDIES ABROAD CONSORTIUM

New Jersey college reopens after note threatening violence caused lockdown

St. Peter's College cancels class, performs room by room search

David Porter
The Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — St. Peter's College locked down its campus for several hours Wednesday after the discovery of a note threatening violence at the northern New Jersey school.

The lockdown ended shortly before 3 p.m., after a room-by-room police search of the roughly 3,000-student campus turned up nothing dangerous, school spokeswoman Lorraine McConnell said.

At 10:40 a.m., campus security became aware of the handwritten note, taped in the stairwell of an administration and classroom building, McConnell said.

Within two minutes, the college sent students e-mail and cell phone text message alerts, using a system set up after April's massacre at Virginia Tech, where a gunman murdered 32 people before killing himself.

McConnell said it was the first time the Jesuit school used its text message alert system.

"Living in the world we live in today, we have to respond to a note indicating this would happen," McConnell said.

Rebekah Maroun, 19, a sophomore from Somerset, said she immediately thought about last week's shooting at Northern Illinois University, where a gunman killed five students before committing suicide.

"I felt my heart pounding as soon as I got the text message," she said. "That's actually one of my biggest fears, but you never think it would happen here."

McConnell said she did not know exactly what the

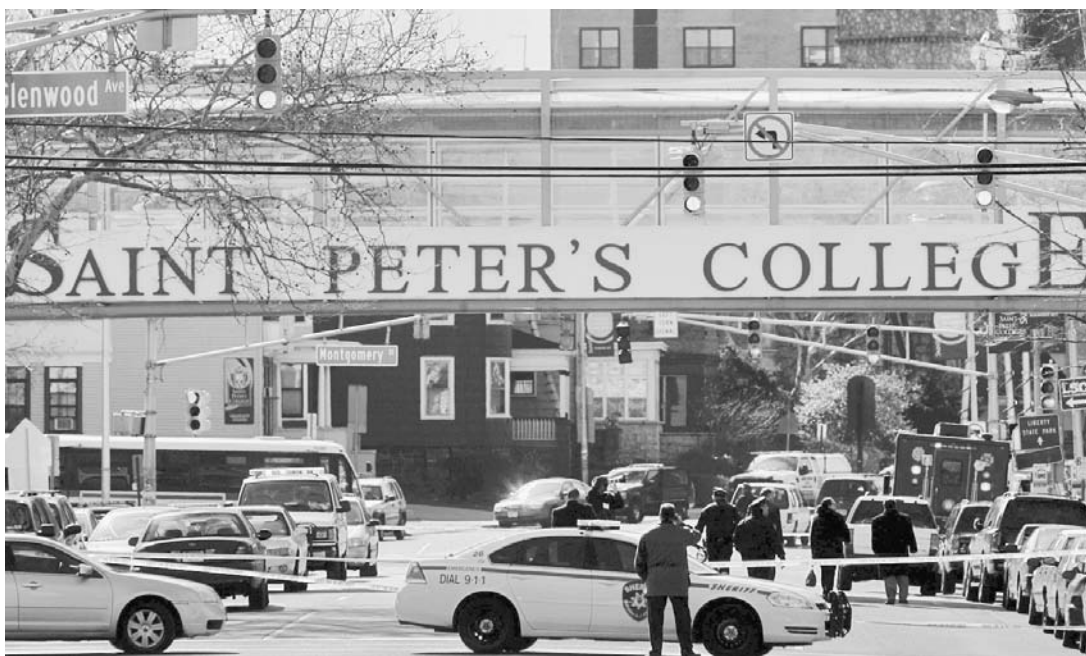
note said. Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy said the handwritten note made no mention of bombs or guns, but did threaten violence against the school.

Police immediately ordered the campus closed as they began their search, aided by explosive-detecting dogs. No particular building was mentioned in the note, police said.

Students who live on campus were brought to a nearby gym to have their bags checked, officials said. Commuter students were being sent home, according to a posting on the college's Web site. Up to 1,000 students were evacuated, authorities said.

Carmen Class, a freshman, said some students started to panic when they were told they couldn't leave immediately.

"Some people started screaming," she said. "I was thinking, 'What's happening? Is this a rumor or is this real?' I felt safer



Mike Derer/ The Associated Press

Police cars block the street in front of Saint Peter's College in Jersey City, N.J. during a lockdown Wednesday, which was later reopened by officers when no threat was found.

after the police came."

Carmen called her mother, Nancy Class, who waited on a sidewalk by the campus until her daughter was allowed to leave.

"She said, 'Mom, I'm scared, come get me,'" Class said. "Your heart just stops when you get that call. You want to go running to make sure they're safe."

St. Peter's posted a notice of the lockdown on its Web site at 10:42 a.m., urging

students and faculty to stay inside until further notice.

"In response to a suspicious note, the College decided to be proactive in following our emergency procedures," an update shortly after noon said.

McConnell said police were still trying to determine who posted the note, and what the motive might have been. McConnell said tapes from security cameras in the building would be

reviewed.

Also Wednesday, a high school in Louisville, Ky., was locked down for a few hours after a student told officials she thought she saw someone with a gun on campus. No weapon was found after a room-by-room police search of Fern Creek Traditional High School, but police said they were looking for a former student based on the witness's description.

SENATE ● Continued from 2

had a productive term.

"He did an excellent job as the figurehead of the executive board. He served our community well," Sinners said.

Sinners was against tabling the resolution.

"I think we need to get stuff done. I'm against tabling anything," Sinners said.

Cole was also against tabling the resolution.

"Some people are just going to fight everything just to fight," Cole said.

Cole thought Payne deserved to be commended, despite the fact he was almost impeached twice during his tenure before his resignation. He regarded Payne's situation as innocent until proven guilty.

"He was almost thrown out of office twice,

but he wasn't thrown out off office," Cole said. "I don't think that takes away from his service to the university."

Payne, a fourth-year economics student, said he was unaware that the resolution was going to be passed, but was excited to hear its result.

"To have a resolution passed by the Student Senate is a big honor. I'm very thankful," Payne said.

Brown, a third-year political science student, spoke about budget allocations for the next fiscal year.

"Organizations aren't happy with the budgets," Brown said. Brown said the Finance Committee is working on scheduling an appeal date for organizations.

Comments on this story? E-mail sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu

BROWN ● Continued from 1

She said the Elections Commission had members that were on the commission last year, when Brown was convicted for elections fraud in the treasurer election. Attorney General John Carroll, charged with defending the commission, was also Brown's opponent in last year's elections.

Carroll, a third-year public relations student, said in response that there would be no bias in doing his job.

"If it were another candidate, I still have to do my job," Carroll said.

Carroll defended the actions of the commission by emphasizing Brown was trying to receive votes through the raffle.

"It was very clear to the Elections Commission she was doing this for her benefit," Carroll said. He said many students who received a ticket may not have been aware they didn't have to vote for Brown.

After the meeting, Carroll said he believed he presented the commission's case well.

"Unless the Constitutional Council interprets the code in a very different way than the Elections Commission,

I'm confident it will go in the Elections Commission's favor," Carroll said.

Two other members serving on the council are Christopher Gainey, a fourth-year biological sciences student, and Brooke Mulenex, a fourth-year political science student.

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DIRECTOR • Continued from 1

The committee, composed of faculty members and two journalism students, has received applications from all over the country and is actively pursuing specific candidates, McDermott said.

McDermott said that some of the sought-after candidates come from international universities, but have not yet applied for the job.

In choosing a candidate, the committee looks at each applicant's academic and professional background, leadership skills and experience in journalism. The director must also have a doctoral degree.

"A big issue is how they affect the future of the school," McDermott said.

Carter said she hopes the committee can "find someone who can do other things in this expanding program."

Charles Bierbauer, dean

of the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, said the new director might bring something new to the school.

"Each director will lend their own personality and style to the school," Bierbauer said. He said he also hopes the director will "have a vision for what the school is now and can become."

While the journalism program continues to grow and develop, some students are looking for fresh ideas.

Sarah Langdon, a first-year visual communications student, desires practical qualities from a new director.

"I hope they find a candidate who has significant experience in the field of journalism because I think that is vital in developing a successful journalism program," Langdon said.

Langdon also said she hopes a new director could

bring students closer.

"I hope they find a director that can unify the journalism school more, as the j-school does not have as strong a sense of community as other schools seem to," she said.

Carter will continue to be a professor in the school and will teach public relations management.

She also offered advice to the incoming director for the Fall 2008 semester.

"Be patient and recognize the tremendous opportunity here of finishing the job of sustaining a great journalism school," Carter said.

Carter has been director of the school for five years.

She also helped increase the number of full-time journalism faculty from 22 to 42, reducing the student-faculty ratio.

*Comments on this story? E-mail
sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu*

S.C. Senate passes stricter penalties for new drunken driving proposal

Governor says punishments are still too weak

Seanna Adcox
The Associated Press

The fines and prison time that repeat drunken drivers face would hinge on how much alcohol they have in their bodies under a measure that received key approval Wednesday in the state Senate.

Senators also decided to increase the punishment for first offenders with at least 0.16 percent alcohol in their blood — double the legal limit of 0.08 percent.

The legislation still faces several hurdles. The House passed its own version last year, and leaders said Wednesday they would not accept the Senate's proposal because penalties for some first offenders should be stronger. They said they would force the bill to a conference committee for debate.

Gov. Mark Sanford also said the penalties are still too weak.

"The bottom line is that if we're going to keep the

people of this state safe on our roads, we have to get tougher on all DUI offenders, not just the repeat offenders," he said in a statement.

Senators spent the most time arguing whether to remove an additional roadside warning.

Under current law, suspects must be read their rights multiple times — before a field sobriety test, during the arrest and before a breath test. The mandate has been widely criticized as an example of the technicalities that make it too easy for a good lawyer to get drunken driving cases thrown out in South Carolina.

While the version passed by a Senate committee removed the first Miranda reading, it added a new roadside warning requiring officers to tell drivers they are not under arrest and can refuse to take the sobriety tests.

Some senators argued it's only fair to tell suspects they can refuse. But critics successfully argued that drunken drivers don't need any more protection than suspects in other cases.

"When you say, 'You've got the right to refuse,' all

you're doing is inviting him not to take it. You're discouraging a person from cooperating," Sen. Larry Martin said. "Rather than invite an uncooperative person on the roadside, let's let law enforcement do their jobs."

The Pickens Republican noted the whole process is on videotape, so people can judge for themselves whether the officer acted fairly.

The legislation does not change current law that requires DUI suspects be videotaped from the time the officer flips on his blue lights. The tape must also include the reading of rights, the arrest, a 20-minute waiting period before the breath test and the test itself.

Some senators were concerned officers in small towns — speed traps, they called them — would arrest a driver for refusing to obey an officer's orders if he refused to take the field sobriety test. An amendment specifies they can't do that.

"We don't need to be trampling on people's basic fundamental rights," said Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, a co-sponsor of the amendment.

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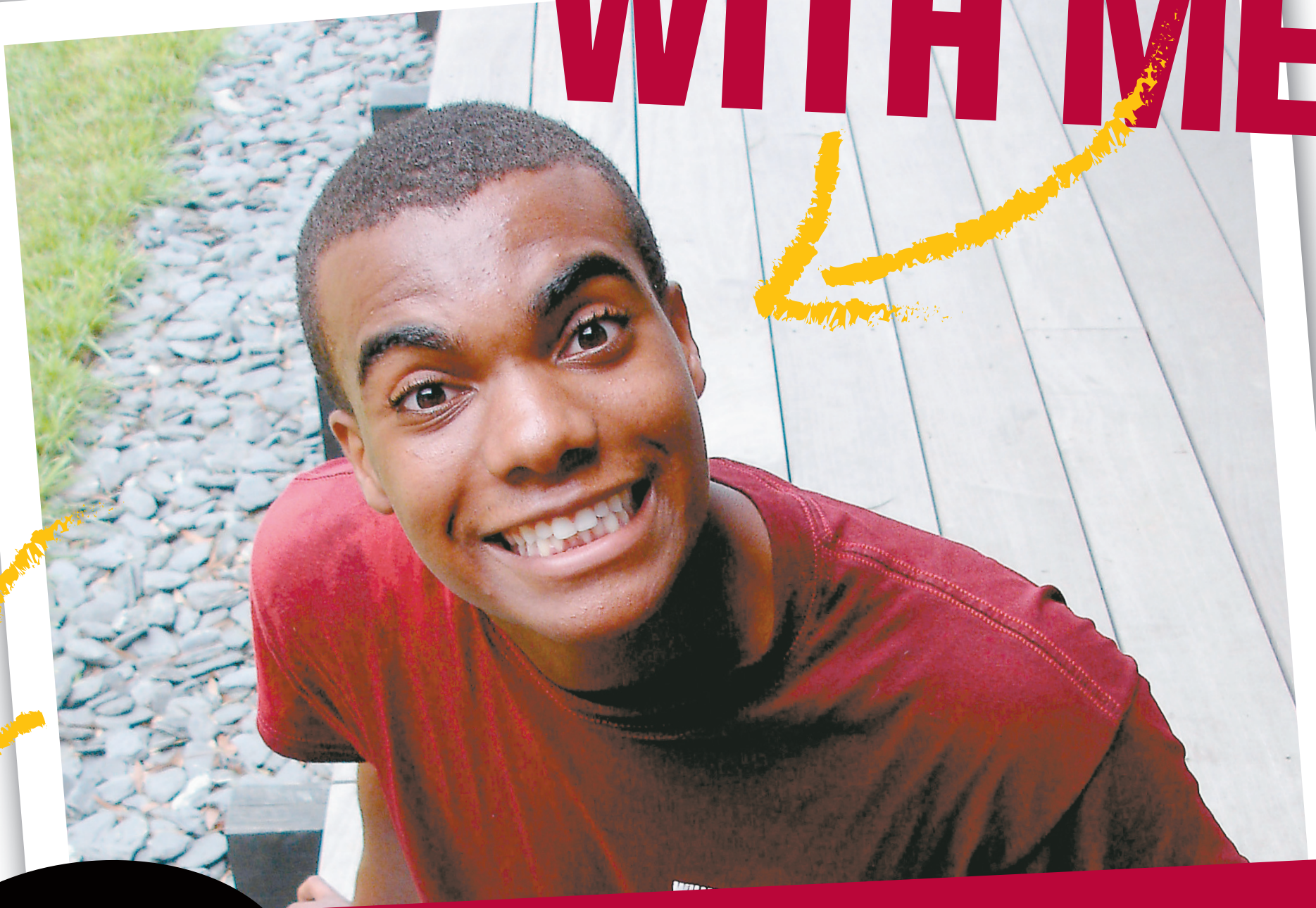
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College Board accuses Texas test-prep company of illegally obtaining exams

Firm sued for infringing copyright

Justin Pope
The Associated Press

The owner of the SAT and PSAT exams sued a Dallas-area test-preparation company Wednesday, accusing it of trying to give its customers an unfair edge on the tests by illegally obtaining "live" copies to help students practice.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Dallas, alleges that the Karen Dillard College Prep company got a copy of the PSAT administered last October from a Plano, Texas, high school principal whose brother works at the company.

The lawsuit brought by the New York-based College Board, alleging copyright infringement, could bring attention to the burgeoning test-prep industry, which some critics contend gives well-off students an unfair advantage on entrance exams.

"We are outraged by the deceptive and unlawful tactics, knowingly practiced by KDCP," said Edna Johnson, senior vice president of the College Board, a not-for-profit membership group of high schools, colleges and educational groups.

"Most distressing to us is that students and their parents put their faith in this expensive prep process that was ultimately based on stealing the College Board's work product," she said.

A message left at the company's office requesting

comment from the defendants — owners Karen and David Dillard, and executive director Matthew Novotny — was returned by Karen Dillard.

She said she had not seen the lawsuit and had no immediate comment.

According to the lawsuit, Novotny obtained a copy of the PSAT administered Oct. 17 from his brother, Michael Novotny, the principal of T.C. Jasper High School in Plano.

The PSAT is generally taken by younger students as practice for the SAT, though it is used to select National Merit Scholarship recipients.

Reached by telephone at his office, Michael Novotny, who

is not named as a defendant, declined to comment.

The SAT is administered seven times per year, and questions and portions of the exam are sometimes reused. The exams are considered "live" until they are officially retired. Test-site administrators are instructed to collect all test forms and lock them away.

According to its Web site, KDCP has campuses in Dallas, Plano and Colleyville, Texas, and according to the lawsuit charges as much as \$2,299 for test prep services. Johnson said the College Board was approached by a whistle-blower inside the company.

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IN OUR OPINION

Olympic restrictions limit spirit of games

Well it seems that there will be two oppressive, communistic governments in play at this summer's Olympic Games.

In light of the 2008 Summer Olympics being held in China, the British Olympic Association added a clause to athletes' contracts, effectively barring them from speaking out on political issues while competing.

The barring of free political speech is nothing new for the Olympics; U.S. sprinters Tommie Smith and

Taking away the ability to speak out deprives the game of its authenticity and spirit.

John Carlos were suspended from the 1968 U.S. Olympic team and barred from the Olympic village after their iconic salute to black power.

The only difference between the BOA's decision and the long-standing rule is

that the British authorities have threatened to remove any athlete who speaks out against Chinese practices.

While it's only polite to respect your hosts, the committee has overstepped their boundaries in barring athletes from the most sacred of speech, political speech. Athletes should not be expelled from one of the greatest sporting events on the planet because they brought attention to controversial topics.

The Olympics are presented on a global scale. With that comes scrutiny of global issues.

Besides, the Olympics are a sporting event for the best and most talented the world has to offer. Taking away their ability to speak out deprives the game of its authenticity and competitive spirit.

While this may not be forcing the English football team to hail Hitler, this is an event that should deeply disturb sports fans everywhere.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Voice your opinion on message boards at www.dailygamecock.com or send letters to the editor at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu

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CHECK OUT THE PODCAST AT DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Scientology: freedom in uniformity

Widely mocked religion not cult, just demands money, loyalty, censorship

When prevailing viewpoints paint a group in the wrong colors, the righteous and truth-seeking must come forward to dispel awful rumors.

For example, I once believed Scientology to be a cult. This was based on what could be gleaned from members' lives: Tom Cruise denied the effectiveness of medicine, Isaac Hayes left "South Park" over jokes mocking Scientology and John Travolta played a woman in "Hairspray."

Then I realized Scientology was a religion, after reading accounts on xenu.net about membership requirements and the fate that awaits anyone who crosses the Church of Scientology's legal eagles. The most compelling factor was the Church's insistence on collecting money: if there's any surefire identifier of a religion, it's the inspirational message it sends to people's wallets, and Scientology demanded deep pockets. My checkbook sang their gospel.

As soon as I said goodbye to all of my friends and



THOMAS MALUCK
Fourth-year English student

relatives, signed over my bank account and divulged all of my blackmail-worthy secrets in a mind-cleansing process called "auditing,"

my days as a Scientologist began. My duties had to do with silencing Internet upstarts who tried to sully the government-recognized title of "Church" by exposing Scientology's aggressive censorship lawsuits, or "secrecy."

Such Suppressant Persons, or SPs to the Church, are not likely to see the light of founder L. Ron Hubbard's often-cited teaching: "The way to make a million dollars is to start a religion." Amen. I was assigned to handle a group of Scientology picketers who organized online and called themselves "Anonymous" to represent a supposed silent majority and to prevent lawsuits from the Church. Since these forum-obsessed neckbeards couldn't be bothered to identify themselves, I had to lure them in my own anonymous fashion:

waving a sign offering "free chikinz" and masks from "V For Vendetta."

Once chloroformed into the psychiatric treatment they so badly needed, the anonymous SPs were educated about the dangers their souls faced, especially if they didn't quit protesting the Church. But I was a merciful educator, and accepted their legally binding apologies and promises to cease and desist.

A few non-believers showed dramatic signs of potential in their resistance, however. They would shriek secret passwords such as "Wait until I get my gun" and "I'll publish a book about this" that let me know they were ready for a spiritual journey. Unfortunately, their enlightenment training beneath several feet of water prematurely released their souls into the cosmos. Now they are several hundred pounds of scrap meat for Travolta, the Scientology Dog (his nose is a natural E-meter!).

I am grateful for the new heights of awareness Scientology has allowed me, and, barring some errant force of rationality, I hope to spread the good news to your community next.

IN YOUR OPINION

Candidates should be punished for cheating

I am writing to address the issue of the "five points and you're out" system in our very own Student Government elections. I am absolutely appalled at how our Student Government elections are run. If a candidate breaks the rules they should be disqualified from the election. If a professor caught me looking over notes during an exam I would be crazy to expect a mere point reduction, as Alesha Brown was given! What kind of country do we live in if not even Student Government elections are run fairly?

Giving candidates an opportunity to build up five points before becoming disqualified is giving dishonest candidates leeway to cheat and is completely ludicrous. How can we call Alesha Brown a leader when she broke rules last year and continued to break rules this year? Do we want a person who intentionally breaks the rules and cheats the system representing our student body while we penalize those that play by the rules?

This reflects very poorly on our university's values. These students are soon to graduate into a tough

world with a challenging economy. Will they find employers that give them five chances to break the company's policies? Do we want to portray to potential employers that the University of South Carolina puts out such slack students lacking integrity? If a candidate cheats they should be disqualified, end of story — just as a failing grade should be given to a cheating student. If high standards of honesty and morals are not upheld, then honest, hardworking individuals do not stand a chance against the "easy-way-out" cheaters like Alesha Brown.

Kiki Brown, second-year political science student

TDG should have given equal time to all

In [Monday's] issue of The Daily Gamecock, the editorial board decided to make its viewpoint apparent through endorsements of three candidates running for various positions of SG. The board's members described their opportunity this past Saturday to talk with the candidates, and they detailed on the page why they thought their endorsements were sound. Despite whatever knowledge

and experience they appear to have, I believe that the editorial board has made a serious error posting these endorsements.

Now, there are some people who are angry at the endorsements ... but not for the same reason I am. They believe that TDG has no business endorsing candidates, as the newspaper is supposed to be fair and unbiased. To them, I say that they should expect nothing more from an opinion section. Mainstream newspapers like the New York Times have endorsed political candidates. I know that being angry in this way is possible because I felt this way at first ... until I remembered that this was an opinion section. Once I corrected myself, I began to think about the section more deeply.

It could be argued that the editorial board put these endorsements here because it thought it was acting in the best interests of the students here at the university. But who is to say — besides the editorial board itself — that they know who is going to be the best for Student Government?

Howard Brutsch, second-year history student

Tolerance needs to be more than 'lip service'

Wal-Mart cashier proves 'freedom of religion' may just be ideal, not reality

Earlier this week, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. apologized to a Muslim woman on behalf of an employee who made a comment about her face veil.

When the woman came through the cashier's line, the cashier said, "Please don't stick me up."

Whether or not the Muslim woman overreacted in demanding a corporate apology, the cashier's remark was

uncalled for and underscores a disturbing trend in America.

"Religious freedom" has been too often reduced to lip service. No one will deny that this is a core American principle and many will speak of it proudly. It evokes stirring images of the Pilgrims fleeing persecution and establishing a new colony on our shores. But when Muslims are treated with contempt because of their faith, I have to wonder how much water the idea of religious freedom holds.

Sure, Muslims won't be jailed just for being Muslim. But they often face a higher level of suspicion, which ranges from racial profiling to Wal-Mart cashiers asking to not be held up. In the worst case scenario, they may even be victims of crimes.

Some might say this behavior is justified due to the Sept. 11 attacks and other terrorist activities around the world. However, I don't see the correlation between radical jihad extremists and the average law-abiding Muslim-American.

I realize making broad generalizations is an unfortunate part of human nature, but it would be nice to just stop and think before speaking. Few in America would judge Christians based only on those who bomb abortion clinics.

So why is it okay to automatically assume someone in traditional Muslim garb is a direct threat to your safety? Doesn't the justice system here operate on the concept of innocent until proven guilty?

I've heard so many appalling and very un-American statements made about Islam and the Middle East. I've heard people claim Islam is inherently fascist, and thus I've heard it equated to a violent political ideology. I've heard people say we should either nuke the Middle East off the map or storm in and convert the natives to Christianity, nevermind that that sounds exactly like what extremists would preach. I've even seen signs at protests that read "Islamophobic and proud of it," and I don't think ignorance is anything to gloat about.

I'm by no means trying to excuse the Islamic radicals for anything they've done. Those terrorist organizations have committed atrocious crimes and should be stopped. But by the same token, I don't think the average Muslim-American should be treated so derisively just because others are doing terrible things in the name of their faith.



KIMI TIMMERS
Third-year print journalism student

Ed's caters to bookworms

Find your own 'lost treasure' at Columbia's unique, used bookstore

Almar Flotides
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

You've probably seen it and passed it by after coming off the Gervais Street bridge. You can't miss it because it's one of the first stores you see entering West Columbia from downtown.

Ed's Editions — a family owned and operated used bookstore, which sells a vast range of books from contemporary bestsellers to rare first editions — is a rarity in and of itself.

It's one of the few independently-owned bookstores in Columbia or even anywhere else for that matter, and nowadays, "it's almost unique to have a used bookstore," said Ed Albritton, owner of Ed's Editions. The store has been his long time dream come true.

The bookshop began as just a collection for Albritton's personal library. The 58-year-old Florida native began about 15 years ago collecting rare and valuable books as a hobby of sorts.

"I've always loved books and had an interest in books — not just to read but as objects," Albritton says.

Albritton is the kind of person who loves attending yard sales and flea markets – finding lost treasures in a rubble of what's seemingly junk. The book that hooked him into the world of book exchanging was a first edition "Carrie" by Stephen King, which Albritton actually found at a thrift store. According to him, the book could now be worth \$1,200 to \$1,500.

From that point on, Albritton "gradually eased into" the bookselling business, he says, despite knowing very little about retail. He had worked most his life as a community mental health counselor before setting up shop full time. Only as a part-time trade did he book scout, which is basically looking around for good books. Albritton also sold books at a local antique mall for several years prior to opening his Editions.

But it was during a serious time in his life that pushed Albritton to make plans to open his dream store. Albritton suffered from a possibly life-threatening illness when he

asked himself, "What's the one thing that I've dreamed of doing that I haven't done yet?" The answer was simple: Open a bookstore.

Albritton confided his plans with his wife, Irene, who was very supportive of the idea. He spent about a year visiting other used bookstores and researching ideas for his own shop. Albritton says he was clueless about a number of things but that he was ready for a new challenge.

The doors of Ed's Editions finally opened at its current location on the corner of Meeting and State streets in June 2001. In April 2004, the bookshop expanded into the neighboring room, a former pharmacy, in the same brick building to shelve the influx of books that Albritton added to his

accumulation. The store, which started with a stock of nearly 12,000 books, now houses more than 30,000.

Once inside, your eyes shift on a countless number of odds and ends from the art pieces to the building itself with its exposed brick-and-mortar walls and striking pressed tin-tiled ceiling, both of which have essentially been preserved since its construction in the early 1900s. Everything inside lends itself to the whole quaintness of the store's atmosphere.

"It's almost like this building was built for this store," Albritton says.

There are books of all sorts, including many modern works and children's book. And the store doesn't just sell rarities. For the most part, it sells bargain books. So you may want a first edition "Choke" by Chuck Palahniuk for \$250, or if you still haven't read the last Harry Potter book, it's only \$5.

"We serve not only collectors but readers of all kinds," says Albritton, especially "people who just want a good book to read."

Albritton along with his family staff — Irene and his son, Eric — specialize in personal service and consider their store very customer oriented. "We take the time to do a search for a book," Albritton says.

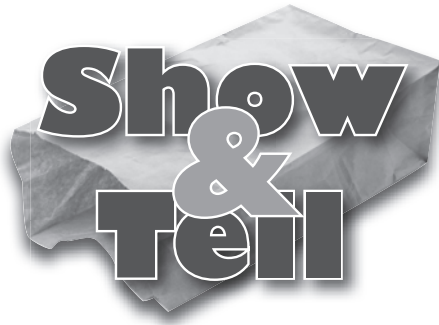
And if you're considering a Barnes and Noble or a Books-A-Million over the independent store, Albritton says they "have something corporate bookstores don't have which is a selection of books they haven't seen in 15, 20 years."

Ed's Editions does have a large stock of out-of-print books or books that are difficult to find.

The stock changes frequently with new arrivals added daily. And although planning to keep the store more of the same, Albritton says he will continue "improving the quality and depth of the collection."

Albritton says he believes in recycling books — "keeping good books circulating." A lot of them "still have a lot of life left in them."

Comments on this story? E-mail sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu



Marin Muller
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Every morning I find myself immersed in a society where caffeine flows freely and conservative values are nowhere to be found.

Getting out of bed is a far less daunting task knowing that The Unemployed Philosophers Guild's Democratic Dream Mug awaits me. A lot of caffeine with a little liberal wit is the next best thing to hitting the snooze button.

The mug unassumingly displays a map of the country with red states and blue states according to the nation's current political affiliations. Thankfully, the power to change any Republican state is no further away than a microwave.

Once filled with hot liquid, the mug "magically" turns blue (after all, what else but magic could turn South Carolina into a blue state?). Maybe it's a result of my early morning, caffeine deprived delirium, but before heading to a universally dreaded 9 a.m. class, there are few things more satisfying than watching the country's conservative agenda disappear.

For only \$12.95 at philosophersguild.com, the mug is a bargain.

What's not to like about anything that can both serve as a vessel for my coffee and make the country look a little more liberal?

Comments on this story? E-mail sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu



"Zeitgeist"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuBo4E77ZXo>

Michael Moore-like film creates controversy with theories that predict North American Union

Robert Johnson
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Over the past couple years, YouTube has been embraced by dozens of conspiracy theorists, particularly on subjects not featured often on mainstream television. The most popular of these unconventional conspiracies is the possibility for a North American Union.

This concept was featured in the film "Zeitgeist" which is featured in this week's clip. In this video, the narrator describes a farfetched but nonetheless disturbing idea that a secret society of corporations is manipulating the governments of the United States, Canada and Mexico into merging together, which would resemble the European Union.

Over time, this new union would combine with other unions and multinational confederacies to form an all-powerful Orwellian One World Government.

What makes the video so creepy are its references to real world laws and reports. In fact, Ron Paul discussed the idea of the North American Union in one of the Republican debates. However, the references in the film do not prove anything. Most of the filmmaker's theory is still based on speculation.

This film was designed to create controversy much like Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11 was, and it should not be taken as gospel. At its core, this video simply illustrates why the lobbyists and special interests are an unwanted element in our political system.

Comments on this story? E-mail sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu

Press watch out: Pundit police are always on duty

Correspondents held to higher standard during election time, kept on toes by viewers, Web

David Bauder
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fewer than a half-million people were watching MSNBC when David Shuster made his comment that Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign had "pimped out" daughter Chelsea by having her make political phone calls.

Among them were monitors at Newsbusters. The Web site posted video of Shuster 10 minutes after the show was over, beginning a reaction that led to his two-week suspension.

The pundit police never go off duty.

Say something stupid, offensive or incorrect on television and you're going to hear about it, fast.

Web sites and bloggers record everything on news programs, an obsessive attention that can foster a hypersensitivity over words and deepen the nation's partisan divide. Without question, they remind pundits that it's important to think before they speak.

"If you're on television, you have the responsibility to be truthful and honest and do your best," said Amy Holmes, a commentator who has worked at Fox News Channel, MSNBC and now CNN. "But I think some of these pundit police hold people to an impossible standard."

It's been a particularly rough month at NBC. Besides Shuster, Chris Matthews apologized after suggesting Clinton's political prominence was due

to her husband's infidelities. The watchdog Media Matters for America said there are many other instances where Matthews had been unusually critical of Clinton. The "Today" show had to say it was sorry Thursday after guest Jane Fonda used a vulgarity.

Shuster's words had few defenders, but TV legend Barbara Walters expressed some sympathy for his predicament. Sometimes you say something unfortunate on live TV, she said on "The View."

"He's getting suspended, he apologized, MSNBC apologized," she said. "Drop it already! It's OK. He made a mistake."

Two pundit police chiefs are Media Matters, from the left, and the Media Research Center, from the right. The MRC operates Newsbusters.

Media Matters was founded in 2004 by David Brock, the former conservative who switched allegiances. Its goal is to watch conservative media figures and hang them by their words, publicizing their statements to the wider world and challenging them on facts.

"You certainly know you're having an impact on conservative media when you become part of the conspiracy theories of every right-wing pundit in the country," said spokesman Karl Frisch. "That's sort of a badge of honor."

Fox's Bill O'Reilly is a frequent target; he calls Media Matters "an assassination Web site."

L. Brent Bozell, nephew of conservative icon William F. Buckley, started the Media Research Center in 1987 with the goal of becoming the conservative movement's ombudsman. It tries to sniff out signs of liberal bias and takes the media to task

for gaffes, the same standards journalists hold for reporters, said Tim Graham, the center's director of media analysis.

"We have a rather mundane goal here, which is to get eyeballs," Graham said. "We all like making a splash. We all like getting the Drudge link."

Pundits feel the eyeballs.

"In a campaign capacity, I've been known to have foot-in-mouth disease," said Donna Brazile, a manager of Al Gore's 2000 campaign and a CNN commentator. "But as a pundit, I'm much more guarded. If I say something nice about George Bush, I could get kicked around for months."

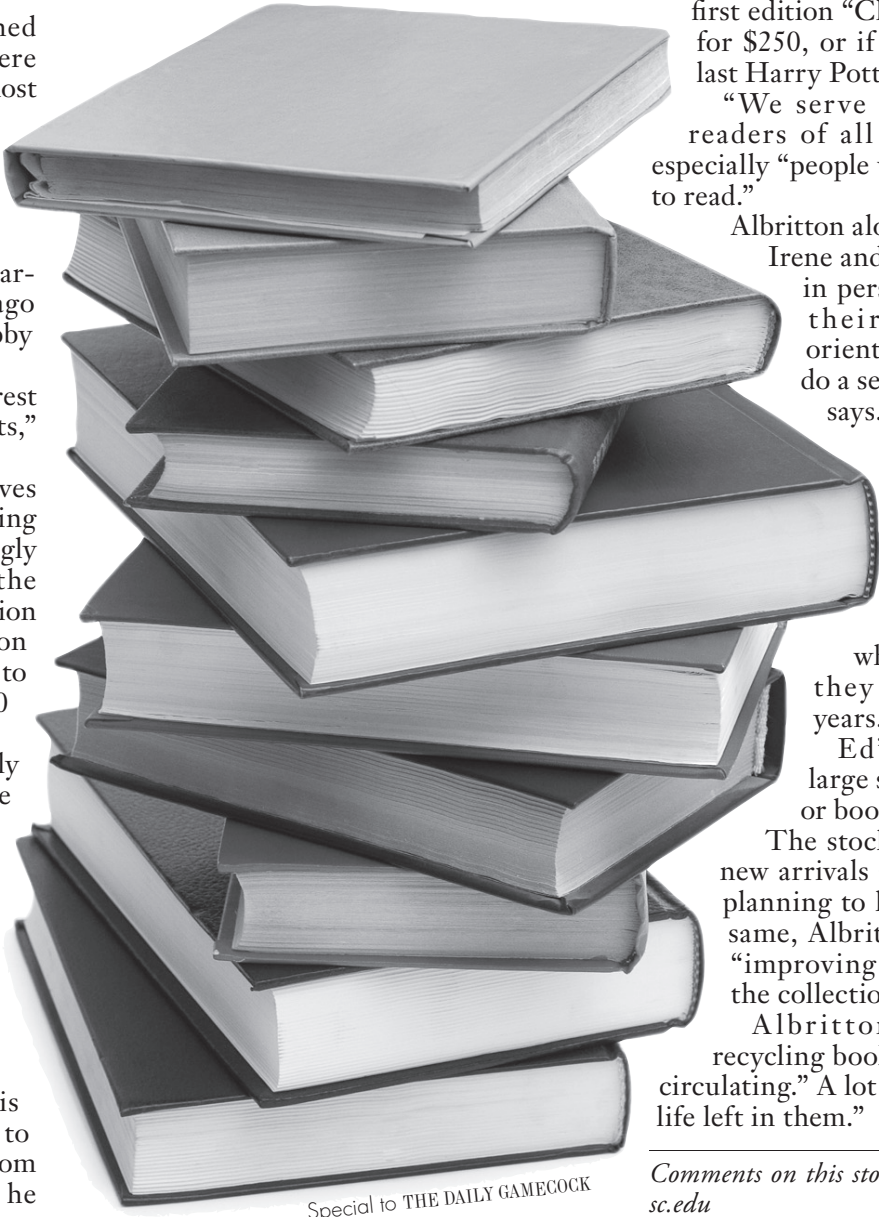
As a black woman and uncommitted Democratic superdelegate, she knows people are parsing her words to see if they indicate support for Clinton or Barack Obama.

She's also sensitive to language, and has warned CNN against referring to a "back row" of commentators on its New York set. Fifty years after Rosa Parks, it might be taken wrong if the "back row" contains black commentators.

Fox News Channel's Mort Kondracke knows he's been featured on left-leaning sites when he's flooded with complaints that all use the same language.

When he described a tax one day as regressive, "I got an avalanche of e-mails," he said. "I did my research and I apologized the next day. Then I got a bunch of e-mails saying 'you spoke too soon.'"

Partisanship gives these pundit police their bite and vigor, yet sometimes undermines their arguments. Media Matters called O'Reilly "ignorant" last fall when he commented about noticing little difference between the



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

'Rock 'n' Roll revival' offers musical mix for all

Kid Rock promises entire audience unforgettable 'twisted' rock showcase

Timothy Finn
The Associated Press

Ten minutes before a phone call is due, an old joke comes to mind: How do you know Kid Rock isn't really hip-hop? Punch line: His shows start on time.

Five minutes before the appointed time, the phone rings. On the other end, Kid Rock sounds sleepy and groggy, but he's ready to talk. For 15 minutes. Calling early for a phone interview could also mean that you're not really rock 'n' roll, either, except these days Kid Rock is as rock as he has ever been.

His latest album, "Rock 'n' Roll Jesus," is a mix of classic rock, hard rock, Southern rock, Heartland rock, country rock plus a country ballad or two. Resemblances to his first and best-selling album, "Devil Without a Cause," are minor and rare: not much rap-rock and even less macho-pimp braggadocio (and not as much low-brow wit, either). Just lots of heavy riffs and party anthems.

In 2008 Robert Ritchie, 37, has stepped away from his alter-egos. These days he is more interested in showing off the music and performers he grew up with — the sounds influenced by Bob Seger, AC/DC, Skynyrd, Warren Zevon, Hank Jr., Run-DMC.

So when it came time to tour on "Jesus," Rock decided it was time to turn down the porno, turn off

the pyro and just play some taproot music. Sunday night he brings his "Rock and Roll Revival Tour" to Sprint Center, and instead of the flashpots and caged strippers of earlier tours fans should expect a rock 'n' roll showcase that lasts nearly three hours.

"A childhood friend comes out and talks to the crowd and plays some music for about 15 minutes," Rock said. "It's a way of letting everyone know the show's about to start. Then we kick it off for about 2 hours. We all rotate on and off the stage and tie it all together with a big finale."

The "Revival" will include some old-school hip-hop, courtesy of one of Kid Rock's guests, the Reverend Run of Run-DMC. But it'll be rap with a rock twist, thanks to his Twisted Brown Trucker Band.

"A lot of people love hip-hop, but they don't like the way it's presented on stage," Rock said. "Or they just don't want to go to a concert to deal with the riff-raff that usually shows up."

"What we're doing kind of reminds me of 'Hail Hail Rock and Roll' where Keith Richards puts together that great band for Chuck Berry ... With my band and how we tied it all together, I don't think Run-DMC's songs have ever sounded better."

The Reverend will be one of two guests at Sunday's show; the other: Dickey Betts, former guitarist for the Allman Brothers. At other tour stops, Peter Wolf of J. Geils Band has been a guest.

"Run just called me one day and said, 'I wanna rock. I wanna come out and do

some shows,'" Rock said. "I said, 'It's funny you should say that because I had this crazy idea about doing this rock 'n' roll revival.'"

"I wanted a couple of cats to go out with me where none of them has their entourage or their own sound people or tour buses so we can keep the prices down for the fans. And that's who really wins here. You're not gonna see another show like this for \$40 and \$50."

No one has ever accused Kid Rock of being a diplomat with an even temper. Because of some off-the-field (and online) antics, he has a reputation for being short-tempered and impulsively outspoken.

Three times in the last three years he has been involved in public fistfights, most famously with Tommy Lee of Motley Crue at the MTV Video Music Awards in September. He's also not shy about dissing whoever or whatever he thinks needs it. Like hip-hop, for example: "There's just not much great live hip-hop. Most of it sounds terrible live."

Cracks like that have brought out the haters and their hate mail — "I'm like, 'Calm down all you white kids with Web sites,'" he told Blender magazine. But they haven't prevented Rock from evolving into a crossover personality who travels freely from one era, genre and scene to another, making disparate pals along the way (Hank Jr., James Hetfield and the Reverend, and even Keely Smith, 75, with whom he sang "That Old Black Magic" at the Grammys Sunday).

You wouldn't expect to see Toby Keith or Kenny Chesney on BET or MTV

or Paul Wall or the Beastie Boys on CMT. But Kid Rock glides easily among all three scenes: He has played live with Lynyrd Skynyrd, Metallica and Phish.

He recorded a country duet with Sheryl Crow ("Picture") that was nominated for a CMA award.

His "Crossroads" special with Hank Jr. drew a record 2.1 million viewers to CMT. Later this year Rock will appear on new albums by rappers Lil' Jon and his buddy, the Reverend.

This knack for mixing-and-matching genres is a product of the two eras of blues that have so heavily influenced him — two very different sounds that, somehow, bring it all back to the various flavors of rock music that his tour showcases.

"When I look back, hip-hop was my blues, too," he said. "You look at great artists like Petty or Springsteen or Bob Seger or Skynyrd, people I look up to musically: They all have that blues influence. It touched every form of music. I studied all that music, from Chuck Berry and the Delta stuff over to country music and Hank Williams and Fats Domino — all that stuff."

"Today, hip-hop — it's the same as the blues. It has touched almost every form of music. You can't turn anything on without hearing or seeing a hip-hop influence, whether it's music or a video. It's in the culture."

"So not only do I have the original blues background, but I'm a little one-up on the cats I grew up loving because I have a hip-hop



Kimberly P. Mitchell / MCT Campus

Kid Rock performs during his Rock and Roll Revival Tour.

background that allows me to tie everything together and be creatively free to make music that is still me."

On "Jesus," the music that ties everything together is rock 'n' roll in its many colors, flavors and

weights — "a celebration of American music," he said — including a little rap.

"I recommend it to anyone, even if you don't like me. If you go, you won't forget it."

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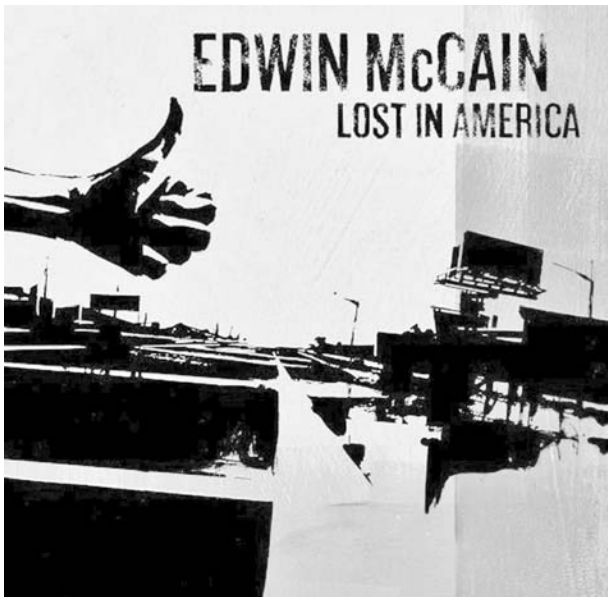


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the scene at USC



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8 p.m., \$5 Over 21/\$7 Under
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LORRIE RIVERS JAZZ NIGHT

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Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

JIMMY CARTER: MAN FROM THE PLAINS

6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., \$5.50
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GIRLS NIGHT OUT FASHION SHOW

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Friday

DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST

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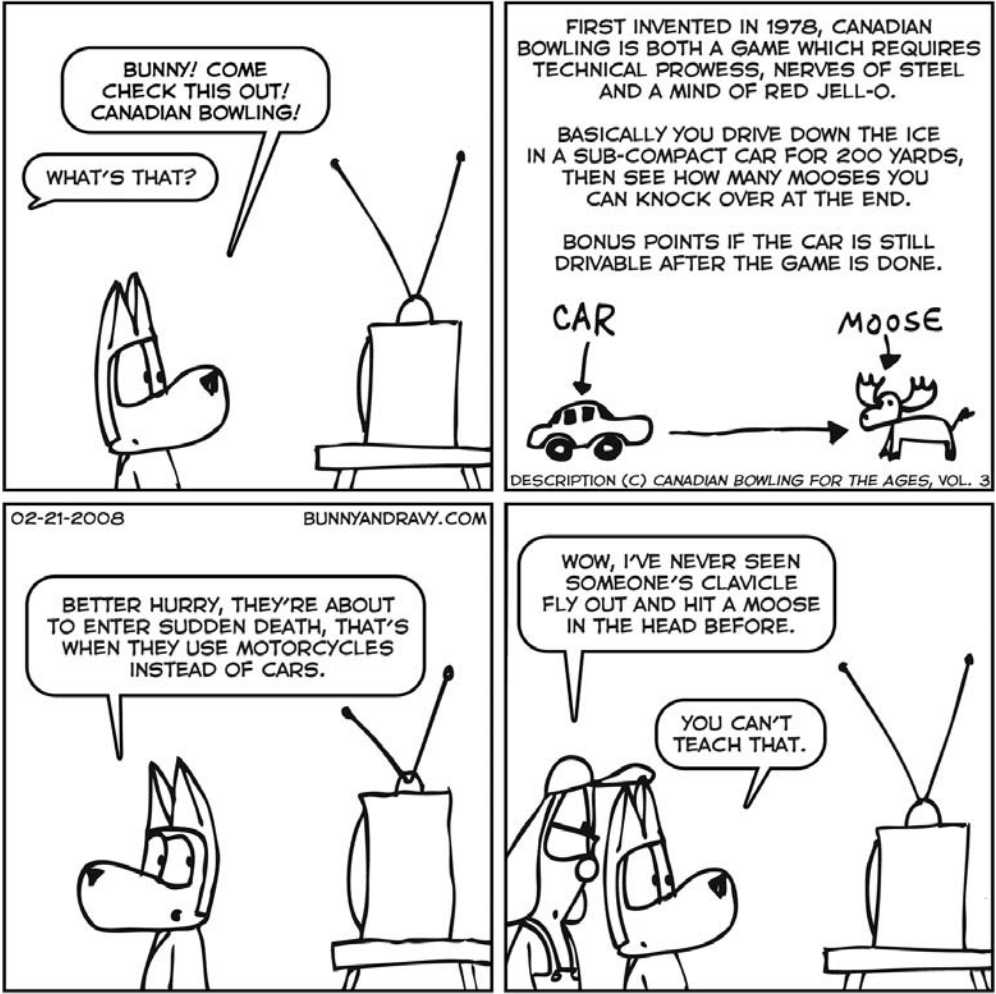
HOROSCOPES

Aries The work has been piling up, and there's no way to get around it. Start with a plan, so you can do the most important tasks first. Devise a schedule and stick to it. **Taurus** You're very attractive now, and very popular, too. This can cause a few problems. Don't think you have to accept every invitation. Exercise discretion. **Gemini** You can't always have your own way, so don't throw a hissy fit. Do what's best for the whole family, even if it's not much fun. You'll be appreciated. **Cancer** Finishing an old task may require learning a few new skills. Give yourself time to practice before you attempt the fix. You don't

want to break anything. **Leo** There are a few things you need to buy, but you can't quite afford them, yet. What to do? Take on an extra job. That's better than going into debt. **Virgo** You're gaining confidence, and with good reason. You've been doing the work and doing it well. Be gentle with a critic who doesn't know the whole story. **Libra** Be very careful traveling; expect delays and hassles. Watch out for accidents in your workplace, too. Proceed with caution. **Scorpio** You have so many invitations you hardly know which to accept. Take care not to double-book. That could cost you dearly. Remember, family comes first.

Sagittarius Things are getting a little complicated. You're being asked to comply with rules and regulations that seem unnecessary. Do them anyway, to win the reward. **Capricorn** Not a good time to travel. Haste makes waste, too. Make your life easier by postponing an outing, and a purchasing decision. **Aquarius** Financial matters deserve your attention. You may feel wealthy, but you won't be if you don't plan ahead. Start by paying off all your debts. **Pisces** It's going to be difficult to get all sides to agree. Instead of seeking consensus, be a good listener. Let them talk and reserve your decision for a while.

Inside the Box ♦ By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock



The Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



PhD ♦ By Jorge Cham



Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

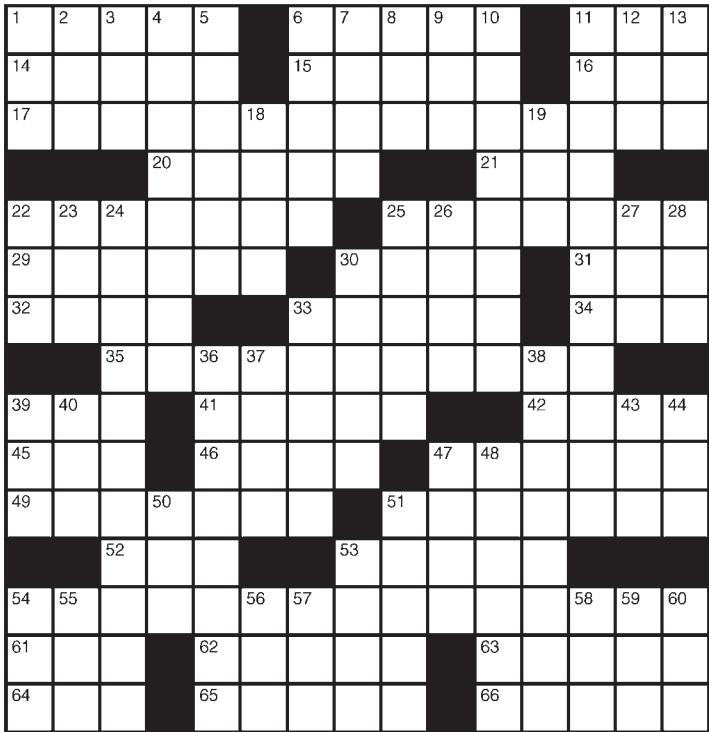
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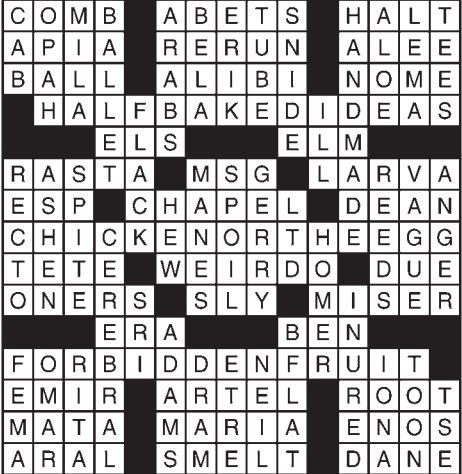


ACROSS

- 1 Endangered
- Afr. mammal
- 6 Abraham's son
- 11 AARP group
- 14 Noble title
- 15 "Jurassic Park" star Sam
- 16 Tiger's peg
- 17 Start of quip
- 20 Part 2 of quip
- 21 Morse unit
- 22 Weapons stockpile
- 25 Rainy day
- racetrack favorites
- 29 Considered
- 30 Anderson of "WKRP..."
- 31 Bodybuilder
- Ferrigno
- 32 Finished
- 33 Short skirts
- 34 Charged particle
- 35 Part 3 of quip
- 39 Suitable
- 41 Third rock
- 42 Burn a bit
- 45 Zodiac cat
- 46 Takes a chair
- 47 Grapevine
- transmission
- 49 Swaps
- 51 Gigantic statues
- 52 Knight's title
- 53 Part 4 of quip
- 54 End of quip
- 61 Onassis, to pals
- 62 Barcelata's
- "Maria _"
- 63 Lukewarm
- 64 Kind of rally or talk
- 65 Philly pro
- 66 Utopias



Solutions from 2/20/08



- 33 Sahl and
- Drucker
- 36 Warrants
- 37 Cougar's den
- 38 Miscellaneous
- 39 Clerical vestment
- 40 Veggie sphere
- 43 Some sloths
- 44 Upstate NY school
- 47 Political syst.
- 48 Soap ingredient
- 50 Barcelona aunt
- 51 Actor Romero
- 53 Nary a one
- 54 Spigot
- 55 Mining product
- 56 Actor Wallach
- 57 Latin law
- 58 Bonzo or Clyde
- 59 "Little Red
- Book" compiler Biao
- 60 Mormon letters



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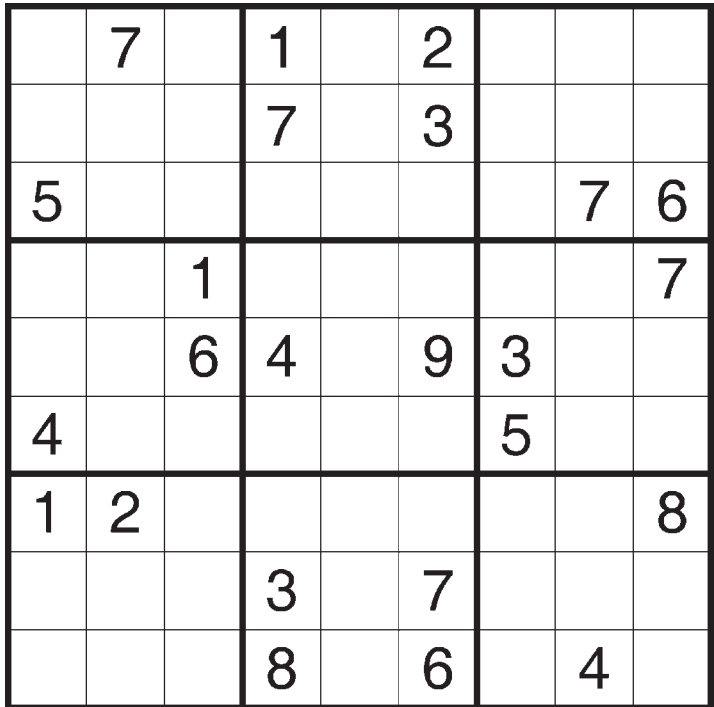
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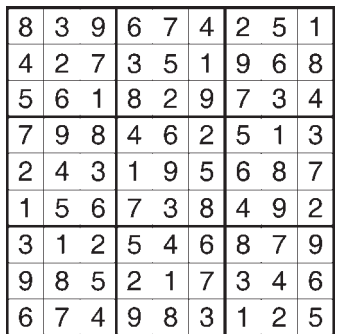


Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play

Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 2/20/08



USC loses close game at Florida

Gamecocks lose another close game after big second half comeback

Austin Collins
STAFF WRITER

South Carolina cut a 17-point second half Florida lead to one with 7.5 seconds left, but two free throws by freshman Jai Lucas were enough to propel the Gators to a hard-earned 85-82 victory Wednesday night at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center.

Florida (20-7, 7-5 SEC) opted to foul point guard Devan Downey with 2.2 seconds left instead of giving up a potential game-tying 3-point attempt, and the sophomore from Chester missed the front end of a one-and-one. The Gators grabbed the rebound, ran out the clock and snapped their two-game losing skid.

It was the second loss for the men's basketball team (12-13, 4-7 SEC) against the Gators this year. The Gamecocks dropped another close decision, 71-73, to

Florida last month at the Colonial Center.

For a while, Wednesday's game looked like it would be a blowout. Florida hit 20 of 30 shots in the first half, including 7-11 from three-point range. The Gators extended their lead to 17 with 14:35 remaining, but South Carolina made a huge run fueled by the inside-outside duo of Mike Holmes and Evka Baniulis.

Holmes scored a career-high 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, while Baniulis, who had 20 points, knocked down six triples, including two in the final minute. It wasn't enough to knock off the hot-shooting Gators.

Florida finished the game shooting 59 percent from the field and hit half of its 22 three-point attempts. All five Gator starters finished in double figures, including 17 points from freshman Nick Calathes and 15 from sophomore Dan Werner.

It was a game of runs on both sides throughout the game. Florida started 10 of 14 from the floor and pulled ahead 26-15 with 10:40 left in the first half. South Carolina

responded with a 14-3 run to tie the game at 29 on Holmes' jumper with 6:15 remaining.

It seemed the Gamecocks had weathered the storm, but another Gator scoring barrage before the first half ended proved to be the difference as Florida opened up a 48-36 advantage at the break.

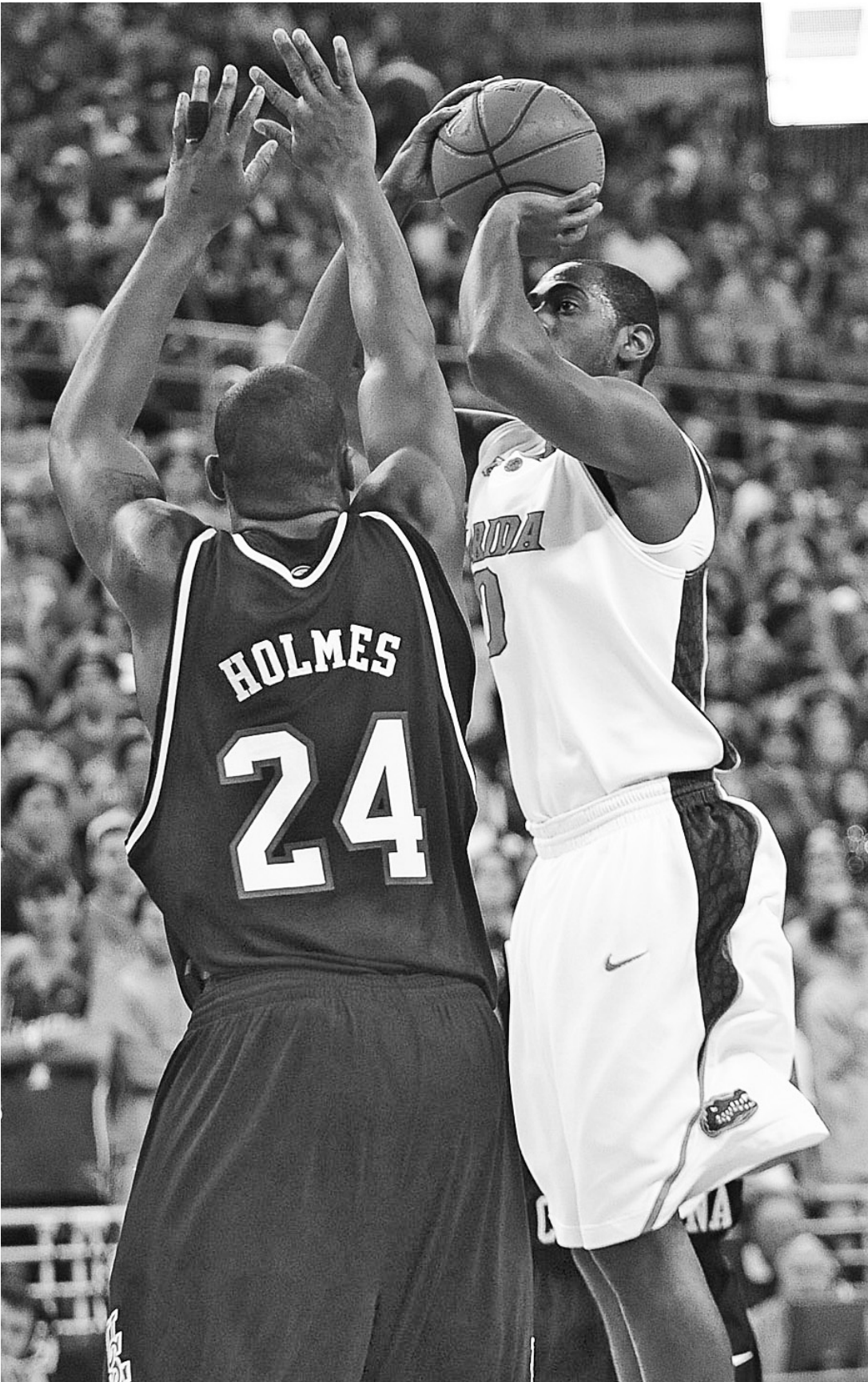
The Gators continued their torrid shooting early in the second half before USC made its run. SEC leading scorer Devan Downey's 18 points were two shy of his average, but his play in the second half was key in bringing the Gamecocks' back.

Downey dished out seven assists, including a handful to Holmes and Baniulis.

South Carolina was equally as impressive as the Gators with its perimeter shooting; the Gamecocks 12 of 23 showing from long range kept them in the game.

USC returns home to take on SEC West-leading Mississippi State at 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Colonial Center.

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

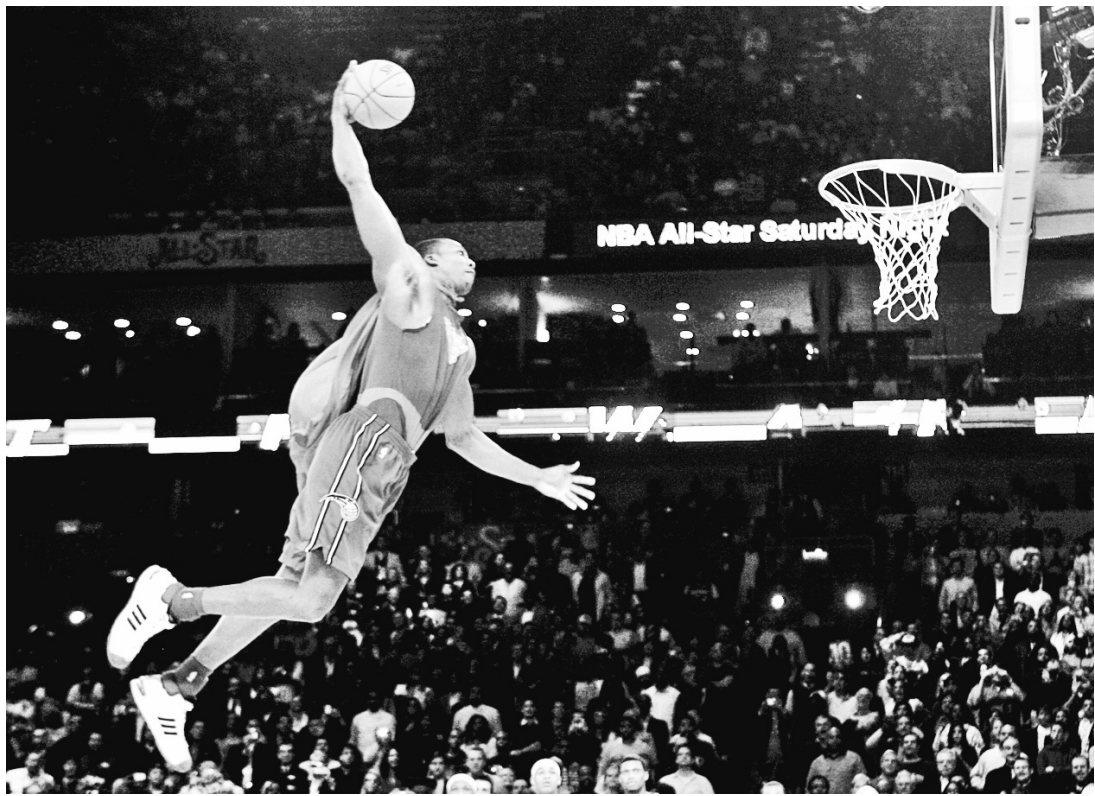


Phil Sandlin *The Associated Press*

Freshman forward Mike Holmes gets in the face of Florida's Jonathan Mitchell.

Stat Line

Freshman forward Mike Holmes had his first career double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds plus a steal in 29 minutes off the bench.



Eric Gay *The Associated Press*

Big time trades and historic slam dunk contests have the NBA on the sports forefront.

NBA excites sports fans through winter

Parity and trades keep league followers on edge of their seats

The winter months usually mark a dead time for sports fans with the NFL in the offseason and Major League Baseball two months away; however, the sudden jolt of energy into the NBA has made professional basketball an outlet for those fans thirsty for sports.

Tuesday marked the start of the second half of the NBA season, which promises to be one the best in recent memory. Currently, the top seed in the Western Conference and the eighth and final playoff seed are separated by only four games. The Western Conference is as competitive this year as ever before because a team that wins 50 games will likely miss the

playoffs.

In order to get an edge in the highly competitive Western Conference, teams are pulling out all the stops to make sure they obtain home court advantage. This season has seen two future Hall of Famers in Jason Kidd and Shaquille O'Neal and a n o t h e r high caliber player, Pau Gasol, traded to Western contenders who felt they needed a playoff push.

Kidd offers the Dallas Mavericks a true floor general and distributor who will set up the other players on team. The Mavericks also hope that Kidd will bring some mental toughness to a team that has choked in the last two postseasons.

The acquisition of Shaq or, as he now calls himself "The Big Cactus," gives the Suns a true interior presence on both the offensive and defensive end. O'Neal will allow the other big man on the Suns to spread the floor more and stay out of foul trouble.

The Lakers started this trend of blockbuster trades when they traded for seven-footer Pau Gasol. Gasol gives the Lakers an intelligent big man who will fit in well with Kobe Bryant and the triangle offense.

Though these three teams felt that they needed to make trades, other teams, such as the defending champion Spurs, felt content with their roster and how it will perform in playoff time.

The presence of 9 to 10 strong teams in the Western Conference will not only make the race for

Carolina hosts Bulldogs

Women's basketball looks to bounce back after loss to Auburn

Meredith Smith
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

When the Carolina women's basketball team tips-off on Thursday night at the Colonial Center, they will be facing a Mississippi State team with a two-game losing streak.

Mississippi State (15-11, 3-8 SEC) lost on Sunday to Georgia 60-56.

The Gamecocks (13-12 overall, 2-8 SEC) suffered an 83-72 loss on Sunday at Auburn, but are 11-4 when playing at home. The Mississippi State Bulldogs however are 4-5 when playing on the road.

"We're getting better. The team has a great attitude," said USC coach Susan Walvius after the team's practice on Tuesday. "We have faced a lot of adversity this season because of injuries, and there are a lot of times when we have four freshmen on the floor at a time. But we're looking to get better."

Junior forward Demetress Adams scored a season-high 17 points on Sunday, with all but 4 points being scored in the second half. She is the second-highest scorer for the Gamecocks averaging 11.3 points per game. Adams has a 54.9 percent field goal shooting percentage and averages 9 rebounds per game. She also leads the team in steals with a total of 59 for the season.

South Carolina's leading scorer is Jordan Jones. A freshman guard, Jones averages 12.2 points per game, and scored 12 in the game against Auburn on



Ben Fine *THE DAILY GAMECOCK*

Junior forward Demetress Adams is coming off a season high scoring performance and is looking to beat MSU.

Sunday.

"Mississippi State is very quick," said Walvius. "The game last year came down to overtime, and they have everybody back from last year. They are a very aggressive team. They like to post up guards, which is different."

One such guard for Mississippi State is junior Marneshia Richard. In Sunday's game at Georgia, Richard scored 15 points. Richard averages 9.5 points per game and shoots 40.2 percent from the field. Richard leads Mississippi State in steals with 50 at this point in the season.

Sophomore forward Tysheka Grimes scored 9 points, but hit 7-of-8 free throws. She also had 6 rebounds and five of the team's nine steals, a career-high for her. She averages 11.6 points per game, making her tied for leading scorer along with sophomore guard Alexis Rack.

Mississippi State's free-throw shooting is what kept them alive in the game against Georgia. The team was 16-17 in free throws in their last outing. South Carolina on the other hand was only 8 for 15 when it

NBA • Continued from 11

the postseason exciting, but the postseason itself. This sudden parody will eliminate the first round sweeps that are almost customary in the NBA and will replace them with a long series that will reveal which teams are the best. Once one team separates themselves as the cream of crop in the Western Conference they must face the winner of the Eastern Conference (most likely

the Pistons, Celtics or Cavaliers). The Celtics have been a team on a mission this season, earning the league's best record before the All-Star break. The acquisitions of Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen have made the Celtics a balanced team with three superstars starving for a championship. The Pistons and Cavaliers also present tough matchups, with the Pistons presenting a balanced team attack and the Cavaliers led

by All Star MVP LeBron James. So, while traditionally there is no remedy for the dry period between the Super Bowl and March Madness, this year's sudden parody in the NBA brings new excitement to a season that is so often forgotten. The NBA put on a great show at this year's All-Star Game, and there is no reason to believe that the excitement will end any time soon.

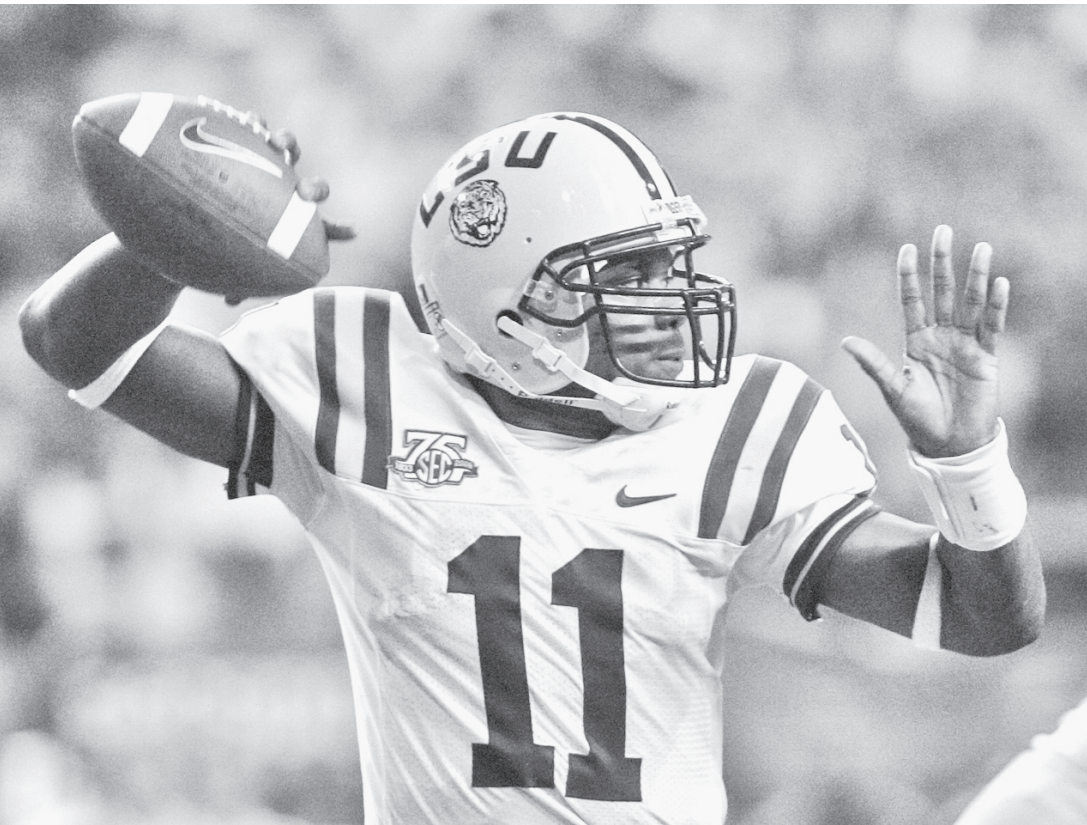
WOMEN'S • Continued from 11

came to free throws against Auburn. "We were shooting 50 percent from the floor against Auburn," said Walvius. "We outscored Auburn. We just need to work on limiting fouls."

South Carolina and Mississippi State split the 2006-2007 series. The Gamecocks lost the first meeting but won the second. The two teams will only play each other one time during this regular season. "We need the students," said Walvius. "There are

those students that do come to the games and we encourage them to continue coming. We really appreciate the students who come out to our games and support the team."

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu



John Amis *The Associated Press*

Due to a violation of team rules LSU's Ryan Perrilloux has been suspended indefinitely.

LSU's Perrilloux faces more scrutiny

Bayou Bengal quarterback garners third career suspension

Mary Foster
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Ryan Perrilloux — heir-apparent to the departing starting quarterback of LSU's national championship team — is in trouble again.

On Monday, head coach Les Miles suspended Perrilloux for an indefinite period. Miles would say only that Perrilloux, 21, had violated unspecified team rules. Miles has not been available for comment since and neither has Perrilloux.

With senior Matt Flynn moving on — likely to the NFL — and the Tigers' thin at quarterback, it's a headache Miles could do without.

Perrilloux was a spot player in the 2007 season. But his physical talents made him a factor in several games as LSU marched to the BCS championship game in January.

Last fall, Miles said he thought Perrilloux understood the conduct that was expected of him.

"Well, I know he missed a mandatory meeting," said Larry Dauterive, who coached Perrilloux at East St. John High School in Reserve. "He was the only one on the team that missed it. You know he shouldn't have done that."

The team meeting, the week after LSU won the national championship, was to set the tone for the offseason, Dauterive said.

Dauterive said Perrilloux also apparently missed classes to attend his father's funeral, but didn't tell Miles or his coaches where he was going or why. Dale Perrilloux Sr., 53, died Feb. 7.

"I just don't understand

it," said Dauterive. "In high school he caused zero trouble. He was always the first one at practice, the last one to leave. I've been doing this for 39 years and he's the best I've ever seen."

Now, the LSU community is wondering whether Perrilloux's third team suspension will be the last.

"I love Ryan like a son, but I will understand whatever Les Miles does," Dauterive said. "You have to wonder how many second chances he'll give Ryan."

Perrilloux did not make the trip to Alabama last season, left behind after he was said to have been in a fight in a Baton Rouge bar. He was not charged after a police investigation.

In May 2007, Perrilloux was suspended when he was issued a misdemeanor summons by police after allegedly trying to use his older brother's driving license to enter the Hollywood Casino in Baton Rouge, sports information director Michael Bonnette said.

Perrilloux was cited for one count of misrepresentation to gain access and released, said Baton Rouge Police Cpl. L'Jean McKneely. The minimum age to board a riverboat casino in Louisiana is 21; Perrilloux was 20 at the time.

Perrilloux attended classes at LSU over the summer and performed community service in an effort to get back in good standing. He made it back to Miles' good graces in time for the start of fall practice.

At that time, Miles said there were steps Perrilloux had to take to return to full participation. He would not elaborate.

"With the privilege of being on our team comes responsibility," Miles said. "It's been pointed out, and I think he's ready to comply."

Meanwhile, Perrilloux

has been listed by federal authorities as a person of interest in a counterfeiting probe under way for more than a year. No charges have been filed and U.S. Attorney Jim Letten has refused to discuss the case.

Perrilloux was considered the nation's top high school quarterback prospect when Miles, who had been on the job only a few weeks, signed him in 2005.

He won the 2004 Hall Trophy as the nation's most outstanding high school football player and was named Offensive Player of the Year by USA Today. He was also named National Offensive Player of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Columbus, Ohio, Louisiana's Mr. Football and Louisiana Gatorade Player of the Year as well as a Parade All-American. Perrilloux was invited to the Elite 11 Quarterback Camp as well as to the Army All-American Bowl.

"He put a little school out in the middle of a cane field on the map," Dauterive said.

The 6-foot-2, 220-pound signal caller took a redshirt year in 2005 and played sparingly as a third-string quarterback in 2006, appearing for mop-up duty in five games and completing only one pass in four attempts for 10 yards.

His biggest success came when he stepped in for an injured Flynn to lead the Tigers to a 21-14 victory over Tennessee in the Southeastern Conference championship game in December. Perrilloux also played in the Tigers' 38-24 win over Ohio State in the BCS national championship game.

It is not clear if Perrilloux's suspension will be lifted in time for spring practice, which begins Feb. 29. While it has a stable of running backs and depth at other positions, LSU lacks experience at

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COLUMBIA

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One-on-One

with

Bill McDonald

The Daily Gamecock Sports section sat down with USC golf coach Bill McDonald to talk about his team's potential, leaders and goals for the rest of the season.

Michael Aguilar
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

What has the season been like so far?

Wildly inconsistent. In our first event of the year we lost in a playoff against Alabama, who is one of the best teams in the country. We had a couple of solid events in the fall; a fourth place finish in Macon and an eighth place finish at Isleworth, which had 10 or 11 top 25 teams in the field. We've had events like the Ridges, where we finished 12th, and like Sawgrass, where we finished 11th. We played real well at the match play and made it to the semifinals there before losing to Georgia Tech. So we've had some runs where you say, "this team could be really good," but we've also struggled.

What has led to the disappointments so far?

I think some of it has to do with the fact that my lineup has been hard to solidify. Florian Fritsch has been in and out of the lineup and then dislocated his kneecap a couple weeks ago. Warren Thomas had a tough fall but he played well this week at Sawgrass. So, the lineup has been in a state of flux.

How do you fix what has been wrong?

I think once the lineup settles down a little bit and I can get the same guys in tournaments, more than one or two at a time, we'll be fine. I can't ask the guys to work any harder. Our theme for the spring was "prepare with intensity," and I've had every kid on the team doing everything that I ask them to do prior to an event. I think that we've got some really high-quality, high-character kids on the team.

I think a big thing is that this is our first event since late October. There was a little bit of rust there, I mean, they've been playing a lot and practicing a lot against each but there is nothing like live competition.

How do you feel about the team's performance?

Team golf is just one of those funny things where you have to get a group of guys playing well together at the same time to be really good. This year in college golf you have quite a bit of parity. When you look at this week at Sawgrass we were five shots out of the top five and we finished 11th. We had what I would consider a down week and finished five shots out of the top five.

We're not that far off. I'm not in any kind of panic mode. I'm not trying to reinvent the wheel. I'm disappointed because I've seen how

well we can play and I know that we have guys on the team that can get it done.

What do you see in your star golfers Mark Anderson and George Bryan IV?

They're consistent. I would say, based on last week, that Warren Thomas is in that group as well.

The thing that separates Mark and George, Warren is heading in that direction, they both have a tremendous short game. They both are decent ball stickers but I would say that week-in-week-out they have an ability to scramble around and handle the adversity of the kind of conditions we see on a regular basis. They don't have to hit the ball perfectly or have everything going their way to score well.

Are there any younger or more unknown players that are trying to step up into a bigger role?

With our team we have some younger guys and then we have a couple guys who are juniors, like Patrick Cuning, who is a redshirt junior. Florian is more likely going to have a good chance to play for us in the spring if his knee is okay to go with. We only have one freshman and he's a walk-on. Allen Koon, Patrick Rada, Paul Woodbury, Baker Elmore and Mark Silvers, these are all guys that are juniors (and sophomores) and sophomores and they are a group that from a talent level they are very close. They just have to battle it out qualifying and then hopefully play well in the tournament and maintain their spot in the lineup.

Looking forward to the rest of the season, what do you expect from this team?

I expect this team to compete for a championship. I think that the experience and the talent is there. I know what we are capable of it based on what we did last spring and how we played at times in the fall. I'm a realist. I understand that coming off an 11th place finish at Sawgrass you can't beat your chest and say we're going to kick everybody's butt. At the same time I've seen this team rebound and come back from situations like this, like we did last spring, and play at the highest level and beat the top teams in the country. That same talent is still here. We didn't lose anybody. The idea with us is we've got to get healthy, get the lineup more solidified and I think we'll have a very good spring.

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu



Courtesy of USC Media Relations

Greek Announcements

- Congratulations to Delta Sigma Theta for 95 years of dedication to sisterhood, scholarship and service. They will be hosting an AIDS forum in the ODK room on Thursday, **February 21st** at 6:00 p.m.
- The Greek Store & More will be hosting a trunk show featuring their new line of purses at the Chi Omega house on Wednesday, **February 27th** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Congratulations to Kappa Kappa Gamma on their 41st Founder's Day.

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The Daily Gamecock

classifieds

Place a Classified ad: p 803-777-3888 • f 803-777-6482 • www.dailygamecock.com

Line classified ad rates

First insertion: \$2.50 per line
Subsequent: \$1.50 per line

DEADLINE

Noon, 1 business day prior to publication

Additional Info

Two-line minimum
Lines average 30 characters in length

Additional options

Box around ad: \$1.25
Logo insertion available for an additional cost

Major credit cards accepted

VISA

MasterCard

DISCOVER

NOVUS

E-mail: sholmes@gwm.sc.edu • Office hours: M-F 8:30 am - 5 pm • Russell House, Rm. 343

Announcements

**VA REGIONAL OFFICE
COLUMBIA SC JOB FAIR**
Rating Veterans Service Rep
Salary \$45K+
Master's or Work Exp. in medical/Legal
Legal Admin. Specialist
*Salary - \$36K+
*BS or Work Exp in Medical/Legal
*Some FT available
Feb. 25, 200 @ Inn at USC
1619 Pendleton 10am - 4pm
Free Parking Pickens St. Access EOE

Apartments

1BR 1BA Avail NOW in 4BR 4BA
@ Copper Beech. \$449/mo + util.
Call Kelly @ 803-968-2005.

1BR 1BA Avail August in 3BR 3BA @
Sterling by te River \$560/mo inclds all
util & furn. Call Nicole @ 813-416-6512.

**Marion St. 1BR - CH&A w/d H2O &
parking included \$450. 256-3745**

Copper Beech Now Leasing
2nd phase 1 2 3 & 4 Bedroom Brand
New Townhomes. Call today 255-0170
www.cbcech.com

Roommates

M/seekers/rmmts 3BR 3BA new cottage
near stadium 864-933-5270 933-5271

Housing-Rent

CONDO FOR RENT 2BR 2BA min
from USC located on River.
All appl furn. \$850. Avail now!
Call Matt 730-3980

Very large pvt home - 6BR 3BA close
to USC in W. Cola. Laundry room fp
hdwd fls fenced yd, pets ok. Avail im-
med. \$1500.00/mo **1900 Holland St.**
796-3913.

CLOSE TO USC - 3BR 2BA yard sun-
deck w/d d/w \$900 **803-553-4542**

HOUSE FOR RENT - 3BR 2BA short
drive to campus, off st pkg. 1500 sq ft
\$800/mo. **600-6874.**

Help Wanted

Downtown business hiring for
clerical/computer position. Fax resumes
to 251-4371.

BOOKSTORE EXPERIENCE

Local College textbook wholesaler cur-
rently looking to hire the following posi-
tions: Inventory Manager & Warehouse
Manager. Salary package based on ex-
perience. Ideal candidate will have col-
lege bookstore textbook experience.
Please send resume to **Textbooks**
Suite F Box 151 100 Old Cherokee
Road, Lexington SC 2072 or call
356-5702.

Help Wanted

BELLA VISTA BRIDAL - now accepting
resumes for Sales Positions.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Program Assistant/Research
Interviewer
USC School of Medicine/Dept of
Internal Medicine
Salary Range:
\$24,578.00 to \$45,578.00
This person would be responsible for
the administration of surveys and the
management of data collection from in-
mates that agree to participate in the
SC Linkage Program for Inmates
(SCLPI) research project at Alvin S.
Glenn Detention Center.
Minimum Qualifications: Bachelors
degree or High School diploma and 4
years relevant professional experience.
Desired: One or more years working in
the HIV/AIDS arena. Experience with in-
terviewing, or similar data gathering ac-
tivity preferred.
For more details visit:
<http://hr.sc.edu/employ.html> Type in
Requisition #044100, fill out application
on-line and submit. We are an EOE

Assist Office Manger with Data Entry,
Customer Service Sales \$8/hr 15/hrs/wk
M-F 2-5. Close to USC Fax resume or
work history to 254-4544.

BARTENDING up to \$250/day . No exp
nec, training prov'd 800-965-6520 X 253.

Help Wanted
Afterschool
Programs

After School Counselors Needed -
Immediate openings for energetic coun-
selors to work in an education and re-
creation oriented after school program.
Call **Richland County Recreation**
754-6720 ext 206 or 208.

Help Wanted
Summer Camps

PLAY SPORTS! HAVE FUN! SAVE \$\$
Maine Camp needs fun loving counsel-
ors to teach. All land, adventure & water
sports. Great summer! Call
888-844-8080, apply: campcedar.com

Help Wanted
Instructors

Experienced Personal Trainers
needed. Located 5 minutes from cam-
pus. PT & FT available. Contact Matt
@ 799-9455 for details.

Help Wanted
Restaurants

Exclusive downtown private club has
opening for experienced pm Sous Chef,
am/pm Wait staff with formal experience
and pm dishwasher. Club offers com-
petitive benefits and great work environ-
ment. **Apply in person to**
1301 Gervais St. 20th fl, Tues-Fri
3-5pm. Fax resume to 771-8767 or
email to jobopening@sc.rr.com.
Drug free workplace.

Volunteer

Camp Happy Days is now taking ap-
plications for volunteer camp counselors.
Camp is for children with cancer and
their siblings. You must be 20 years old
or older. Camp is held June 28-July 5,
008. To request an application contact
Teresa Bishop, Volunteer Administrator,
at **teresa@camphappydays.com**
mailto:teresa@camphappydays.com.
or 843-571-4336 x13. Deadline to ap-
ply is April 25, 2008!

Miscellaneous

Self defense products & surveillance
equipment. **Kobie Campbell, owner of**
Heavyweight Security. We sell: tasers,
stun guns, pepper sprays, tear gas, bb
guns knives spy glasses voice changers,
spy cameras, and etc. Contact
313-633-5530.

Doing it daily.

www.dailygamecock.com

RECYCLE YOUR
PHONE BOOKS!

Participate in
the phone book recycling
program. We will collect any of
your old directories (USC,
Bellsouth, Talking
Directory, etc.)

WHO: Carolina Recycling

WHAT: Phone Book
Recycling Program

WHEN: February 15 - March 15

HERE'S
HOW:
3 EASY WAYS

1 Take your phone books to the corner of Gadsden
& Greene & put them in the green dumpster

2 Neatly stack your phone books in the main
office of your department

3 Call 777-WORK (9675) and place a work
order to have your phone books picked up*

*10 or more books, please

WIN TICKETS TO

KENNY CHESNEY'S
POETS & PIRATES
STADIUM TOUR 2008

INCLUDING:

Brooks & Dunn

LeAnn Rimes

Gary Allen

Luke Bryan

SATURDAY, APRIL 26th
at
WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM

GO TO DAILYGAMECOCK.COM &
CLICK ON THE KENNY CHESNEY
CONTEST BOX TO ENTER

CONTEST WINNERS
ANNOUNCED FEB. 22.
BUY YOUR TICKET WITH
YOUR CAROLINA CARD!

BILL YOUNG PRODUCTIONS
THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

Devine Spring

DEVELOPMENT
MINT
LIQUID
MILLY CABANA
MAYLE
3.1 PHILIP LIM
WHITE+WARREN
PETIT BATEAU
GOLDENBLEU
LEVI'S CAPITAL E
ELIJAH
TIBI
VINCE
FARINAZ
SPANX

J

JEAN

WOMENSWEAR

2734 Devine Street
803.252.4339

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We are looking for talented, enthusiastic students to join our award-winning staff
for the 2008 spring and fall semesters.

STUDENT MEDIA at USC offers students the opportunity to
gain experience in print, broadcast and online media,
advertising sales and graphic design. We have paid and
volunteer positions and very flexible hours.

For more information, contact STUDENT MEDIA at
803-777-3888 or visit: www.sa.sc.edu/studentmedia.

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